



MARK-UP COPY OF AMENDED CLAIMS

1. (AMENDED) A method for sampling a fluid produced from a wellbore, the method comprising:

providing a vehicle having a drive means for moving the vehicle, a collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid, and a storage facility for the collected sample of fluid, said collecting device and said storage facility being connected to said vehicle;

using the collecting device to [recover] collect a sample of the fluid [to the vehicle's storage facility at a first location on] from a subsea structure at a first location;

storing the sample in [the] said storage facility of [the] said vehicle; and

carrying the sample [in the vehicle's storage facility] to a second location which is different from said first location.

3. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first [position typically] location has a collection port [to mate] which mates with the collecting device, and the method includes the step of engaging the collecting device with the collection port at the first location, and transferring the fluid through the collection port and collecting device while they are engaged.

4. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the] said vehicle is [a] remotely operated, [vehicle.]

5. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein [the] said storage [tank] facility and said collecting device are housed on a frame attached to the vehicle.

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7. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the vehicle has a probe for connecting to the subsea structure at [the] said first [position] location and the method includes the step of connecting the vehicle to the subsea structure via the probe and collecting the sample through the probe.

9. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1 including the step of detaching the vehicle from the subsea structure at [the] said first [position,] location, removing the sample when the vehicle has moved to the second position, and analyzing the sample at [the] said second [position.] location.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the collecting device has several separate sample containers for collecting samples, and the method includes the step of collecting a further sample from at least one other subsea structure before the vehicle moves to the second location for analysis of the samples.

11. (AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein [the] said device can be controlled from a position remote from the first [position,] location, and the method includes the step of controlling the device remotely.

Please cancel Claim 12 without prejudice to its reintroduction in a continuation of this application.

13. (AMENDED) A sampling device as claimed in claim [12,] 14, wherein the wellbore has a wellhead and the collecting device comprises a probe for engaging a port on the wellhead.

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14. **(AMENDED)** [A sampling device as claimed in claim 12] A sampling device for collecting samples of fluid produced from a subsea wellbore, the sampling device having a drive means for moving the sampling device, a collecting device for collecting a sample of fluid and a storage container for holding the collected fluid, wherein the drive means comprises a remotely operated vehicle.

15. **(AMENDED)** A sampling device as claimed in claim [12,] 14, wherein the storage container comprises at least one bottle[, the said at least one bottle having a] having a piston movable within the bottle.

16. **(AMENDED)** A sampling device as claimed in claim [12,] 14, having means to indicate characteristics of the sample collected, the characteristics being selected from the group consisting of pressure, volume and temperature.

17. **(AMENDED)** A sampling device as claimed in claim [12,] 14, wherein the device is adapted to collect the fluid sample from a subsea fluid-carrying structure selected from the group consisting of wellheads, manifolds, pipelines, wellbores, casings, tubulars, storage tanks and gravity base structures.

18. A sampling device as claimed in claim 16, wherein the indicator means is configured to indicate the selected characteristics on a continuous basis.

19. **(AMENDED)** A sampling device as claimed in claim [12,] 14, wherein the storage container has a fail safe valve to seal the container in the event of a power failure.

Please add new Claims 20-28 as follows:

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- 20. A method for sampling a fluid produced from a plurality of wellbores, comprising the steps of:
using an underwater vehicle to receive a plurality of fluid samples from respective ones of said plurality of wellbores and to store said plurality of fluid samples in a plurality of respective containers;
5 transporting said plurality of containers to an operating station for testing.
- 21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said underwater vehicle receives and discards a first sample from sampled wellbores and then receives a second sample.
- 22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said underwater vehicle inserts a male probe into a female receiver at a wellbore in order to receive a fluid sample.
- 23. The method of Claim 20, wherein said underwater vehicle is remotely controlled to perform said using and said transporting steps.
- 24. A system for sampling wellbore-produced fluids, said system comprising:
a plurality of wellbores located underwater;
an operating station, which is at a location separate from said plurality of wellbores, said operating station having a capability to receive
5 and test samples of fluid;
a collection vehicle which is configured to collect separate samples of fluid from ones of said plurality of wellbores and transport said separate samples to said operating station.



- 25. The system of Claim 24, wherein said collection vehicle comprises a remotely operated vehicle.
- 26. The system of Claim 24, wherein the output of said plurality of wellbores all feed into a single manifold.
- 27. The system of Claim 24, wherein said operating station is onshore.
- 28. The system of Claim 24, wherein said collection vehicle is configured to discard, to a waste container, a first sample from a sampled wellbore and to store a second sample from a sampled wellbore. --

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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for his careful and very thorough Office Action.

The claims presently outstanding are Claims 1-19. By the foregoing amendments, various Claims are sought to be amended or cancelled without prejudice. New Claims 20-28 are sought to be added. These changes are believed not to introduce new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Section 112(2) ("Clearly and Distinctly Setting Forth")

The foregoing amendments to the claims are believed to remove any remaining informalities, and thus all grounds of §112(2) rejection are now believed to be obviated.

Art Rejections

The art rejections are all respectfully traversed. Claims 1-6, 12, 13, and 17 are rejected as anticipated by O'Neill.

Review of the References

Some of the major technical differences between the references applied and the disclosure of the present application will now be reviewed. Of course, these points in the specification do not define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims; they are listed merely to help appreciate the importance of the claim distinctions which will be reviewed thereafter.

O'Neill *et al.* appears to disclose an automated submarine for drilling oil wells underneath the ocean, with an associated oil storage tank.

If the undersigned agent has overlooked a relevant teaching in any of the references, the Examiner is requested to point out very specifically where such teaching may be found.

It is respectfully submitted that O'Neill does not appear to provide

a means to transport oil samples from one location to another, as is claimed, in varying formats, in independent Claims 1, 20, and 24.

Analysis of Claim Amendments

The requested amendments to Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11 are to clarify the invention and to remove indefiniteness and ambiguities in the language of these claims.

Claim 14 has been amended to make it independent (and therefore allowable), replacing Claim 12, while Claims 13 and 15-17, 19 are amended to correct their dependencies and other minor informalities.

Claim Distinctions

Some features of the claims are noted as follows for the Examiner's convenience, but of course these notes do not dictate the interpretation of the claim, nor indicate that some features are more important than others.

None of the references relied on, singly or in any motivated combination, are seen to teach or suggest the claimed features of: "*carrying the sample to a second location which is different from said first location*" as recited, with other limitations, in the context of Claim 1.

Added Claims

The newly presented claims are also respectfully submitted to be patentable.

The Examiner's attention is particularly directed to the recitation of "*transporting said plurality of containers to an operating station for testing*" in the context of Claim 20.

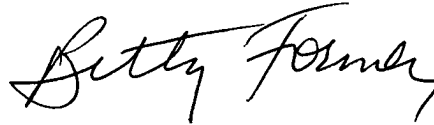
The Examiner's attention is also particularly directed to the recitation of "*a collection vehicle which is configured to collect separate samples of fluid from ones of said plurality of wellbores and transport said separate samples to said operating station*" in the context of Claim 24.



Conclusion

Thus, all grounds of rejection and/or objection are traversed or accommodated, and favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney or agent for an interview to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,



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